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is to be presumed that the geological formation of the peninsula, from the Kennedy River to Cape York, does not differ materially from that which obtains in and about Somerset. There is no rank vegetation, and with the exception of creepers very little underwood to be met anywhere, while the physical aspect of what has been seen consists of belts of forest and scrub, an undulating outline, a series of ridges, and between the lines of scrub open patches, sparsely wooded, and partaking of the appearance of English park-scenery. These characteristics, taken in connexion with the absence of mud or mangrove *swamps* of sufficient extent to be so designated (for the narrow fringes of the former on either side of Somerset Bay, and the mixture of both on an equally insignificant scale in a few of the bays towards Cape York, are not worthy of so ominous a title) afford most satisfactory guarantees of the continuance of the unexceptionable sanitary status which obtains at present throughout the entire year."

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*5. Journey of M. Gerhard Rohlfs through Marocco and Tuat, 1863-64.*  
By Dr. AUGUSTUS PETERMANN, Hon. Corr. Mem. R.G.S.

M. GERHARD ROHLFS has arrived in safety at Tripoli, after his journey from Marocco, towards the expenses of which the Council contributed 50*l.*\* The following is a sketch of the route followed, communicated in a letter to Sir Roderick I. Murchison, by Dr. Petermann, to whom M. Rohlfs has sent his journals for publication in the 'Geographische Mittheilungen.'

"Gotha, 23 February, 1865.

"You will have received from M. Gerhard Rohlfs of Bremen a communication relative to his journey from Marocco to Tripoli, for which the Royal Geographical Society kindly assisted him with the grant of 50*l.* As I have received all his original journals and papers, I consider it to be my duty to acquaint you, in a few words, of the value of this journey in a geographical point of view. First, then, in performing the journey from a point between Mekines and Fes in Marocco to Tafilet, he crossed the principal portion of the Atlas, the only snow-covered mountain-*mass* in Africa; for Kilima-njaro and Kenia are only isolated peaks. Gerhard Rohlfs is the first educated and intelligent European who succeeded in crossing that highly interesting mountainous region, and penetrating beyond it: when he explored the extensive chain of the fertile valleys and oases of Tafilet, Ued Saura, Tsabit, Timmi, Tuat and Tidikelt, the most important regions between Algeria and Timbuktu, which French travellers and armies have for thirty-five years in vain endeavoured to reach, none of them having ever been able to penetrate as far as Gerhard Rohlfs. At Tuat, his small means being well nigh exhausted, he returned to the coast at Tripoli by way of Ghadames, in order to prepare himself afresh for another journey to the interior. At the request of his relatives and myself he came to Germany for a short time, but is now on his way back to Africa. On the opportunity of conversing with him about his journeys and his plans, I recommended to him for his present journey the exploration of the Wady Irharhar—by recent research shown to be the Niger of the ancients (Fluvius Nigris of Pliny, Gher of Ptolemy),—of the highlands of the Tuarego, containing the sources of the Irharhar, and of the headstreams of the Joliba, by which proposed line of journey he might probably not touch Timbuktu, a place popularly rather over-valued, and which has been sufficiently described

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\* See 'Proceedings,' vol. viii. p. 94.

[JAN. 23, 1865.]

by Caillié and Barth. Having constructed from the diaries and observations of Mr. Rohlfs a large map on the scale of  $\frac{1}{300000}$ , I am in a position to testify to the great value and importance of his journey, and to the great care and exertions taken to enlarge our geographical knowledge of the regions explored by him, so that it gives me much pleasure to think that the assistance kindly rendered to Mr. Rohlfs by the Royal Geographical Society has been most worthily bestowed. I do not, indeed, remember any journey in any part of the world by which such important results were attained with such small means as were at the disposal of this traveller, he having performed the whole journey, lasting one year and a half, for the sum of about 90*l.*, of which the Royal Geographical Society defrayed the larger portion of 50*l.* I shall not fail to communicate to the Royal Geographical Society an early copy of the maps and reports as soon as they are ready.

"A. PETERMANN."

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